

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Leavitt, D.J. and T.J. Hibbitts. 2012. *Lepidophyma gaigeae*.

***Lepidophyma gaigeae* Mosauer**
Gaige's Tropical Night Lizard

Lepidophyma gaigeae Mosauer 1936:3 Type-locality, "Durango, State of Hidalgo, Mexico." Holotype, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University (MCZ) 42145, adult collected by W. Mosauer, 1 September 1935 (not examined by authors).

Gaigea gaigeae: Smith 1939:24.

• **CONTENT.** *Lepidophyma gaigeae* is monotypic.

• **DEFINITION.** *Lepidophyma gaigeae* is a small, terrestrial xantusiid lizard. Males and females differ in size with males 47 mm SVL and females averaging 53 mm SVL; maximum SVL ca. 68 mm. Males have larger head dimensions (head depth, width, and length) relative to body size than females. Sexual maturity is reached at approximately 42 mm SVL for both sexes. The overall body shape is dorso-ventrally compressed. The background color is dark brown or dark gray to black. It has a tan middorsal stripe extending from the neck onto the anterior of the tail. Four indistinct rows of tan spots run along the body, two of these rows border the light middorsal stripe. The legs have scattered tan spots and the phalanges are banded white and black or brown. Dorsal scales are granular and mostly of equal size however a pair of enlarged granular scales occurs along the midline. Ventral scales are flat and rectangular. The head is covered by large plate-like scales. The eye is covered by a brille and the pupil is round.

• **DESCRIPTIONS.** Other descriptions are in Smith (1939) and Smith and Taylor (1950).

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Black-and-white photographs of the type and/or paratypes can be found in Bezy and Camarillo-R. (1992) and Mosauer (1936), and black-and-white photographs of individuals and habitat in Bezy and Camarillo-R. (1992) and Gonzalez A. (1995). Bezy (1972) and Bezy and Camarillo-R. (1992) provided black-and-white photographs of karyotypes. Mautz (1994) presented both black-and-white and color photographs comparing size differences between *Lepidophyma gaigeae*, *L. smithii*, *Xantusia riversiana*, *X. henshawi*, and *X. vigilis*. Color photographs are in Dixon and Lemos-Espinal (2010) and Obst et al. (1988). Peterson and Bezy (1985) provided scanning electron micrographs of scale surfaces. Sites et al. (1986) provided a black-and-white photograph of a lactate dehydrogenase isozyme pattern.

• **DISTRIBUTION.** *Lepidophyma gaigeae* is known to occur in southeastern San Luis Potosi, northern

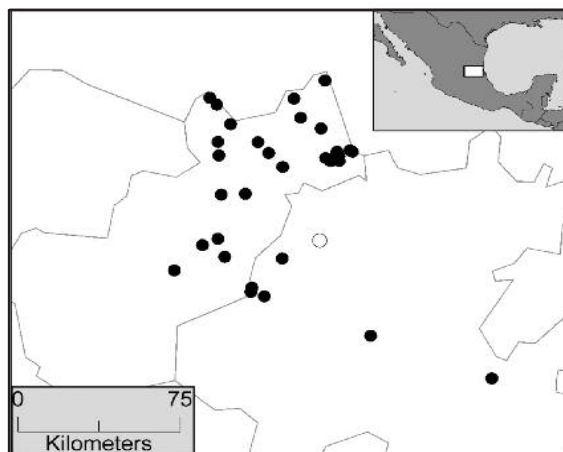


FIGURE 1. An adult *Lepidophyma gaigeae* from Queretaro, Mexico. Photograph by Troy Hibbitts.

Queretaro, and northwestern Hidalgo, Mexico (Canseco-Marquez et al. 2008; Dixon and Lemos-Espinal 2010; Gonzalez 1995; Nieto-Montes de Oca and Perez-Ramos 1998).

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** References by topic include: **anatomy** (Canseco-Marquez et al. 2008; Conrad and Norell 2006; Etheridge 1967; Gauthier et al. 2008; Greer 1976; Gundy and Wurst 1976; Hall 2008; Jerez et al. 2010; Langbartel 1953; Mahler and Kearney 2006; Metzger and Herrel 2005; Peterson and Bezy 1985; Ramírez-Bautista et al. 2008), **checklists, keys, and similar compendia** (Canseco-Marquez et al. 2004; Fitzgerald et al. 2004; Flores-Villela 1993; Flores-Villela et al. 1995; Liner 1994, 2007; Marx 1958; Nieto-Montes de Oca and Perez-Ramos 1998; Ramírez-Bautista et al. 2010; Savage 1963; Smith and Taylor 1950a,b; Wermuth 1965), **ecomorphology** (Hall 2009; Pianka and Vitt 2003), **estimate of relative maturity** (Maisano 2001, 2002c), **genetics** (Sites and Murphy 1991), **ecology** (Dixon and Lemos-Espinal 2010; Dixon et al. 1972; Gonzalez 1995; Ketchersid 1974; Mautz 1994; Nieto-Montes de Oca and Perez-Ramos 1998; Taylor



MAP. The open circle indicates the type-locality, the dots indicate other occurrence records.

1939), **metabolism and physiology** (Andrews and Pough 1985; Mautz 1979, 1980, 1982, 1994), **parasites** (Goldberg et al. 2002), **reproduction** (Dixon et al. 1972; Goldberg and Camarillo-Rangel 2003; Ketchersid 1974), **skeletal development** (Maisano 2002a), **systematics and phylogenetics** (Bergmann 2008; Bezy 1972, 1984; Bezy and Camarillo 1992, 1997, 2002; Bezy and Peterson 1988; Bezy and Sites 1987; Conrad 2008; Harris et al. 1999, 2001; Maisano 2002b; Sinclair et al. 2009; Sites et al. 1986; Smith 1973; Vicario et al. 2003).

• **REMARKS.** Metzger and Herrel (2005) erroneously cited Varela and Bucher (2002) for dietary information regarding *Lepidophyma gaigeae*.

Lepidophyma gaigeae is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Mendoza-Quijano 2007).

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The name *gaigeae* is a noun in the genitive singular case and honors Helen Thompson Gage (1890–1976), former curator at the University of Michigan's Museum of Zoology.

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